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CIA and Harvard



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THAT THIS world is a jungle in which nations, principalities, organizations and groups—as well as individuals—go for the jugular is a fact of life to anyone who is realistic.

The vast majority of us within the United States are quite willing to adopt a live-and-let-live principle. They don't bother us, we don't bother them. They take no overt actions against us, we take no overt actions against them.

But, alas, "they" are not willing to abide by that principle. And so it is incumbent upon the United States to be prudent and to take proper safeguards in the interests of our security.

In order to take proper safeguards it is elementary that we engage in covert intelligence operations. For us to be totally open in dealing with a secretive adversary would be the height of folly. To tell him all that we know and all that we are doing while being kept in the dark as to his capabilities and possible intentions would be nothing more than insuring his eventual dominance over us.

If we are to be successful in our intelligence operations we must have an effective agency which has the freedom to keep secrets and deal quietly with selected individuals.

We have that in the Central Intelligence Agency. Granted the CIA is not as effective now as it was before certain ambitious people in government sought to improve their political fortunes with tale-telling about that organization. But it is the best we have. And it is moving back from the perilous brink to which it had been propelled by the likes of Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, and others of his ilk.

But there remain well-intentioned, if misguided and fool-

ish, individuals such as Derek C. Bok, president of Harvard University.

Bok is one of those academic types who is out of touch with the real world. He floats somewhere in the stratosphere high above ordinary mortals. And his pronouncements are supposed to be greeted with the same deferential respect as though they came down from Mount Sinai.

For reasons best known to himself Bok is engaged in controversy with the CIA. He has singled out this organization, so essential to our security and our survival, as one that must operate on the Harvard campus blatantly, loudly and openly—if it is to operate at all.

Other groups can operate on the Harvard campus in comparative secrecy. But not the CIA, in the gospel according to Bok. And to remove the veil of secrecy which is essential on some occasions is to remove the effectiveness of the CIA.

You would think that in the interests of national security and national survival that Bok would encourage his staff and his students to cooperate with the CIA. But not so. He remains elevated on his academic and stratospheric cloud.

Speaking for the CIA, Dale Peterson had this comment:

"The intelligence community is being singled out by Harvard's guidelines. No such guidelines have been made to cover corporations or other organizations functioning on Harvard's campus. The bulk of our activities at Harvard and elsewhere are open. There are, however, some things done clandestinely and this is where the problem is. We try to use these activities in as limited a fashion as possible. But they aren't illegal and you can't arbitrarily rule them out.

"Our problem is that on campus there is a stigma when anyone deals with the intelligence organizations. But there are people willing to do it, and if everyone who makes contact with us has to report it our sources will dry up."

Mr. Peterson's logic is irrefutable.

In his innocent and naive approach, Bok has loftily pronounced that the CIA cannot use faculty or students for covert operations and recruiting. It can be concluded from Bok's pronouncement that anyone on Harvard's sacred campus who deals with the CIA must wear a flashing neon sign attesting to that fact.

To say that Bok's stand is absurd is to say the obvious.

The CIA does not exist to satisfy the egotism of Adm. Stansfield Turner, its director, nor to serve the selfish interests of any individual or administration. Rather, it exists to enhance our survival as an independent nation.

It is tragic that Bok has elevated himself so far into the stratosphere that he cannot see this—or doesn't give a damn about it.